

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**In the Claims:**

Claims 17-21 and 23-31 are in this application.

Claims 1-16 and 22 have been canceled.

Claim 17 is currently amended.

Claims 27-31 are new.

Claim Rejections**§ 102 Rejections**

Claims 17-19, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mayer et al. (US 5,264,108) (hereinafter "Mayer"). (Office Action at Page 2).

Claim 22 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action at Page 4).

Accordingly, claim 17 is currently amended to include all of the limitations of previously allowable dependent claim 22 and base claim 17.

Claims 18-19, 21, and 23 depend from claim 17. Based at least in part on their dependencies, claims 18-19, 21, and 23 are also not anticipated by Mayer.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 20, 24, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayer in view of Saka et al. (JP 2000021546) (hereinafter "Saka"). (Office Action at page 3).

Claims 20, 24, and 26 depend from claim 17. As discussed, claim 17 is currently amended to include allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 20, 24, and 26 are not rendered obvious by Mayer in view of Saka.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22 and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action at Page 4).

Accordingly, claim 17 is currently amended to include all of the limitations of previously allowable dependent claim 22 and base claim 17.

New independent claim 27 includes all of the limitations of previously allowable dependent claim 25 and base claim 17.


Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17-21 and 23-31 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. A Fee Transmittal is enclosed in duplicate for fee processing purposes. The Examiner is invited to call Blayne Green at (503) 439-8778 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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